

Fine Arts & Explorer Classes

2008—2009

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194

Columbia Central School

94 West Richton Road

Steger, Illinois 60475

Phone: 708.755.0021

VISUAL ARTS

The goals of the visual arts program include understanding the elements and principles of Art, the basic skills and the way Art enhances and affects history, culture, society and everyday life. All activities align with state standards. The same grading scale is used throughout District 194. Students are evaluated through project work, quizzes / tests, and classroom participation.

Art / Grade 6: The 6th Grade art class is part of the EXPLORE rotation and meets one period daily for nine weeks. Units presented emphasize the elements of art with targeted activities. These activities include student written response as well as production of visual expression. Students explore varied media and techniques through specific assignments designed to display understanding of the concepts being learned.

Art / Grade 7: The 7th Grade art program is an elective taken for one period daily for one quarter. Concepts relating to the elements of art are expanded upon and principles of design are introduced. Cross-curricular areas of study are bridged through topics such as architecture, traditional crafts, art history and other areas of expression.

Art / Grade 8: Art students in Grade 8 meet daily for one class period of 40 minutes for a quarter. The curriculum is based upon exploration and mastering of concepts relating to the elements and principles of art, artists and art movements, and relationships to past and present societies and culture.

PERFORMING ARTS

Choir: Columbia Central Choir is open to all students. It is meant to help students improve their singing abilities and become more independent musicians. Students are to participate in the program all year. Performances may include, but are not limited to, two school concerts, community events, the Friends of Music Concert, Illinois Grade School Music Association events, Illinois Music Educators Association Musical Festival and Solo and Ensemble.

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6th Grade Band: The band program begins in the 6th Grade. The students work at *The Essential Elements 2000, Book 1*, as well as sheet music. The focus is basics and fundamentals. The class meets every day and all school year. Performance events include at least three evening concerts, in-school assemblies, and a Memorial Day performance.

Campus Band: The band is comprised of 7th Grade students who already have band experience. An audition is not required. The students work out of *The Essential Elements 2000, Book 2*, as well as sheet music. The students also work out of a music theory book (*Alfred's + Standards of Excellence*—switching every other year). The focus is to build on fundamentals and group playing. The class meets everyday and all school year. Performance requirements are the same as 6th Grade.

Concert Band: The band is comprised of 7th and 8th graders. It is by audition only. The students work out of the *Foundations for Superior Performance* books and sheet music. The students also work out of a music theory book (*Alfred's + Standards of Excellence*—switching every other year). The focus is building strong performance skills, both individually and as a group. The class meets everyday and each section meets once a week for a small group lesson. Performance requirements include three evening concerts, a nursing home tour, assemblies, concerts at the elementary schools, District and State contests, and a Memorial Day Performance. The IMEA Festival and Solo and Ensemble Contest are strongly encouraged. The highest level of musicianship is expected.

EXPLORE CLASSES

Applied Learning Lab: Students bring all their skills to enhance cross-curricular learning in nineteen different career areas. Each module incorporates math, science, reading, writing, problem solving, and career education while being technology-driven. Each module is run by its own unique software following a step-by-step set of directions in a guidebook (textbook). The students are evaluated by presentations, quizzes, critical writings, hands-on projects and two major tests. The course is not only based on the National Educational Technology Standards but also on the standards of each core curriculum area it incorporates.

Computer Applications Lab: Goals for this course are based on the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards) and the Illinois Learning Standards. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of various programs. They learn to utilize the major features of Word and develop an Excel spreadsheet. They also create projects utilizing PowerPoint and Publisher. Students identify and evaluate Internet resources. Other software to create or modify pictures as well as student-created movies is implemented.

Life Skills: 6th Grade—The objective is to have students experience a successful transition into a middle school atmosphere and young adulthood. The course will focus on building strong families, family challenges, how children grow, caring for children, clothing design, fabrics and fibers and caring for clothing.

7th Grade - The objective is to have students experience a successful transition into adulthood and the world of employment. The course will focus on pathways to careers, workplace skills, entering the world of work, how nutrients work, guidelines for healthy eating, buying and storing food, and eating together.

8th Grade -The objective is to have students experience a successful transition into adulthood and eventual independent living. The course will focus on kitchen equipment, safety and sanitation in the kitchen, recipes and measuring, quick meals and snacks, basic cooking techniques, preparing grains, fruits and vegetable, preparing protein and dairy foods, and making good decisions about where you live. All three courses use Glencoe McGraw Hill's *Applying Life Skills*. Assessments will be based upon hands-on activities, discussion, quizzes and tests.

Music: Students learn basic theory and keyboard skills, types of instruments, a brief history of American music and beginning composition. Later, students are given an overview of characteristics, composers, and compositions of classical music from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century. Finally, there is an overview of the history of American music, from the colonies to rock and roll, jazz to musical theater. Students are taught through a variety of projects and audio, visual and hands-on activities in order to gain musical skills, an appreciation of various types of music and how it applies to their lives.

Spanish: Essential Spanish - For the student who knows little to no Spanish. Students will learn basic vocabulary and phrases related to greetings, time, weather, counting and food. Through games, music, videos and group practice these students will enjoy learning the process of learning the basics of Spanish.

Expanding Spanish— The students will move on to build additional skills. The foundations of knowledge about grammar and sentence structure will be laid. Reading simple Spanish paragraphs will provide a sense of accomplishment. Speaking with improved pronunciation, expanding conversational skills and vocabulary are emphasized. There will be exploration of the culture through methods that will provide variety and fun. Use of technology will provide opportunities for students to check their understanding and mastery of vocabulary.

Engaging Spanish This course engages the brain in the challenge of learning a new level of Spanish. The goal to assist students to prepare for future learning emphasis will be placed on grammar and the knowledge needed to help the learner succeed in high school. Conjugations of verbs require engaging active learning skills, which include activities and games to accelerate

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learning. Each student will prepare a presentation or project on an aspect of Hispanic culture as part of this class.

Speech and Drama: 6th Grade—In Drama, students will participate in theatre games, pantomime, music symbols and glove puppets. In Speech, students will learn the fundamentals of public speaking and the process of learning to listen.

7th Grade— In Drama students will experience group pantomime, storytelling, use of the video camera, masks, and story theatre. In Speech, students will learn delivery techniques, speech evaluation, using support materials and research.

8th Grade— In Drama students will study and implement improvisation, costume pieces, period plays, posters and the history of theatre. In Speech, there will be a focus on speeches to inform, speeches to persuade, speeches to entertain, and debate. Participation is a key fundamental to being successful in these classes.

Study Skills: The study skills course is designed to give students the academic skills necessary to succeed in school. This course focuses on individual learning, critical thinking, and increased organizational skills as well as more time and teacher assistance with school work.

ILLINOIS STATE FINE ARTS GOALS

- 25. Know the language of the arts.
- 26. Through creating and performing, understand how works of art are produced.
- 27. Understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present.

ILLINOIS STATE FOREIGN LANGUAGES GOALS

- 28. Use the target language to communicate within and beyond the classroom setting.
- 29. Use the target language to develop an understanding of the customs, arts, literature, history and geography associated with the target language.
- 30. Use the target language to make connections and reinforce knowledge and skills across academic, vocational and technical disciplines.

**STEGER
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For additional information on the Illinois Learning Standards and Descriptors visit the Illinois State Board of Education website at www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/default.htm
or
the Steger School District 194 website at www.sd194.org